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THE BLACKBURNS, OF "RIPON LODGE."

Col. Richard Blackburn came from Ripon,¹ Yorkshire, Eng. His wife was Mary Watts, of the same family as Dr. Watts, the hymnologist. His daughter Alice married Col. Thomas Elzey, of Loudoun county, Va., from whom the Harrisons, of Loudoun county, were descended, and Dr. Graham Elzey, formerly a professor of Blacksburg college, was also one of his descendants; Richard Blackburn's son, Thomas Blackburn, was born about 1740, and died at "Ripon Lodge," Prince William county, Va., October 27, 1807. He and Henry Lee represented Prince William county in the Convention held at Richmond, March 20, 1775. He was elected by the Virginia House of Delegates "by joint ballot with the Senate" lieutenant-colonel of the Second Virginia Regiment on December 20, 1776. He was wounded at the battle of Germantown while acting as volunteer aid-de-camp on Gen. Washington's staff. "During the Revolution he quartered a regiment of Continental troops on his place a whole winter, clothed and fed them, and in the spring sent them back to the army free of expense."

His wife was Christian Scott, daughter of Rev. James Scott. His eldest son, Richard Scott, was commissioned captain in the United States Army, June 2, 1794, and was afterwards commissioned major. He died about 1804. His second son, Thomas Blackburn, was commissioned first lieutenant United States Army, November 1, 1799. He married Elizabeth Sinclair and had many descendants. He died in 1813. Col. Blackburn's daughter, Julia Ann, married Judge Bushrod Washington, to whom Gen. Washington bequeathed Mount Vernon. His second daughter, Catherine, married Henry Smith Turner, of Jefferson county, Va. His third daughter, Sarah, married Nathaniel Craufurd, of Prince Georges county, Md. Lieutenant Thomas Blackburn owned a farm on Bull Run, at Blackburn's Ford, where the First Manassas fight opened on July 18, 1861. The "Gloucester Blackburns" are not related to this family.²

At "Ripon Lodge," in Prince William county, the residence of Col. Richard Blackburn, is a tombstone with the following inscription, taken down by the editor at the place:

¹ Col. Edmund Jennings named his place in York county "Ripon Lodge," his family being also from Ripon, in Yorkshire.

² This family statement is contributed by John S. Blackburn, Esq., Principal of Potomac Academy, Alexandria. See, also, Hayden's *Va. Genealogies*.

Here Lieth the Body of
 Coll^o Richard Blackburn
 who Departed this Life
 July the 15th 1757

In the 52^d Year of his Age.

He was Born in Rippon in England from whence
 He came to Virginia where he Acquired
 a Reputable Character, was intrusted
 and Prefured by the Governor the [most]
 [promi]nent Stations & Command in the * *
 well as by the People who made * *
 [repr]esentative in the General As[ssembly] * *
 Collony where he discharged His * *
 With Honour to himself as well as to His
 Constituents who Reposed [in] Him This
 important trust. He was a Man of
 Consummate Prudence, Frugality & Indefatigable
 industry whereby he made a Large Fortune in
 * * * He was Followed to the grave
 By his inseparable Friend the Honourable
 [W]illiam Fairfax and other Gentⁿ of
 Distinction together with his disconsolate
 Relations who mourned the loss of so worthy
 and usefull a Man to them and to his country
 This Monument is Dedicated to his Memory by
 His Friend John Baylies.

The following letter¹ was written by Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Blackburn (Second Virginia Regiment Volunteer Infantry on Continental service) to Hon. Leven Powell, Member of Congress from Virginia:

Rippon Lodge Jan^y 19th 1801.

Dear Sir:

Your Favor of the 14th Ins^t I did not receive till late yesterday Evening. You are so polite as to ask my Sentiments with other of your Constituents, with respect to the present Dilemma in the Choice of a President. The Opportunity of Information which you have from your Situation, and your own good Judgment will enable you to make up a better Opinion I conceive than you are likely to do from the Advice of any of your Constituents; and it seems the less necessary it should be given, because, as you truly observe, your Vote will, if against Mr. Jefferson, be annulled by the Majority of the Delegates from Virginia. I have, however, no difficulty in giving my Sentiments, such

¹ The above letter was directed, on the cover to "Hon'ble Leven Powell Washington Mail" and post-marked "Dumfries Jan" and endorsed by Mr. Powell (apparently) "Col. Blackburn 19th Jan'y 1801." Copied by John S. Blackburn, Alexandria, Va., October 5, 1895, and given to him by Mr. Charles Leven Powell, of Alexandria, grandson of Hon. L. Powell. Compared with the original by the editor.

as they are, on the Occasion. The present Rage of Parties in the U. States must be truly alarming to all good Citizens. Every Man who wishes to preserve Union and prevent the Extremity to which Matters may be carried should reflect, at the present Crisis, that Temper, and a just Consideration of the Importance of Union, can only preserve us from the dreadful Effects of civil Warfare, which has been a^lready threatened by intemperate Men. We have been so happy under the Administrations of Washington & Adams, that I should have supposed the great Body of our Citizens, could not but see, and properly estimate, the Order & Justice by which they have been governed. But, alas, poor human Nature, a quiescent & happy State seems not to belong to Thee.

With Respect to the comparative Merits of M^r Jefferson & M^r Burr I pretend not to be an accurate Judge. So far, however, as I can understand their politics & Views, I disapprove of both. M^r J——n, I conceive, possesses the best Abilities, yet as it is feared that He is inimical to the Fiscal & naval Systems, adopted under the Administrations of Washington & Adams, He may by his fine spun Theories break the Thread of our Government, and make us a poor, divided, contemptible, and dependent People. The Opinions which he has given on commercial Points must certainly tend to alarm all those who think their Effects, if carried into Execution, would be a Commitment of the Trade of our country to Foreign Nations, & our consequent Impoverishment. In this Light I view it, and I think that common Sense, can see it in no other, and I trust & hope that if he is appointed to the Presidency, the true Interests of our Citizens will lead their Representatives to put aside any such visionary Schemes should He attempt to introduce them. But admit those Objections to M^r Jefferson, & consequently that it might be more safe to trust M^r Burr, who we will suppose would act upon different Principles on these Points what shall we say to the latter's publick Renunciation of taking place of M^r Jefferson? Will not the sitting M^r Burr in the Chair after this be considered flying in the Face of the People? There is no doubt that the Jeffersonian party will so represent it.

It seems to me that M^r Burr is acting with much Art in this Business, and means to throw upon the federal party in Congress, the Odium of superseding Jefferson, if *He should be forced into the Chair*: while He will enjoy the Honors & Emoluments of the Office. Congress, I think, have a nice & delicate point before them. As it seems beyond a Doubt, that it is the wish of the people either that Jefferson or Burr should be President (however they have been misled in the Choice they have made) I think it consistent with the Spirit of our Government to induct the one or the other. If the Choice of the States by their Representatives should fall on M^r Burr, unless He refuses to take place of M^r Jefferson, there can be no just Cause of Complaint by the people at large, who, having made no Distinction in their Votes, for these Gentlemen, have consequently left it to the Representative House of Congress to determine which of the two is most proper to preside. I fear that if neither is elected, that from the present Effervescence of party, the Business may end as Polish elections used frequently to do—in an appeal to the Sword: which God of his infinite Mercy forbid. May the Blessing of God rest on your Councils & guide you, in the paths of peace & Safety. I am dear Sir with Respect & Esteem your most obed^t

T. BLACKBURN.

Excuse this rough Scroll. I have written it by candle-light & with a bad pen, which I had not eyes to mend. I shall be glad to hear from you on this & other publick Subjects as often as convenient. The *Washington Federalist* gives us none of the Debates in Congress. Pray what has been done in Mr Nicholas's Resolution for a regular System of choosing President & Vice-President? Are there any & what objections to it?

LIBRARIES IN COLONIAL VIRGINIA.

LXXVII.—*Library* of John Semple, deceased, attorney at law, "consisting of history, law, novels, etc., a catalogue of which may be seen at the printing office, and at Mrs. Semple's in King and Queen county." For sale at King William Courthouse. *Virginia Gazette*, June 14, 1780.

LXXVIII.—For sale at Jordan's, in Prince George, the personal estate of Richard Bland (the Antiquary), including thirty very fine negroes, one hundred cattle, fifty-six hogs, horses, mares, colts, a new chariot, riding chairs, etc., including "*a library of books*." *Virginia Gazette*, January 3, 1777.

LXXIX.—For sale, the estate of Dr. Alexander Jameson, consisting of a great variety of furniture, horses, cattle, etc., and "*his library of books* on various branches of literature." *Virginia Gazette*, June 27, 1766.

LXXX.—*Library* of Rev. Charles Jeffrey Smith, of New Kent county, Virginia, consisting of "a large and valuable collection of books." *Virginia Gazette*, 1771.

COATS-OF-ARMS IN VIRGINIA.

CAMM.—Book-plate of President John Camm. See page 278.

STRACHEY.—Book-plate of John. See next No.

BAKER.—An old deed of Henry Baker, in possession of Richard H. Baker, Esq., of Norfolk, bears a wax seal with the arms given in Burke (Co. Kent): Ar on a fesse nebulée betw; three Keys, Sa., a tower triple towered of the first.

TAYLOE.—The original will of John Tayloe, of "Mt. Airy," dated January 1, 1744, proved November 2, 1747, has two beautiful seals in black wax, bearing a "sword between two lions ad-dorsed." (Richmond Co. Records.)

REID.—The original will of James Reid, merchant, of Urbanna, Middlesex county, dated 1763, proved Jan. 3, 1764. Has a black wax seal with a chevron between three eagle's heads. Crest: An eagle's head. He died without issue, leaving a legacy to his sister, Jean Reid, of the Shire of Air, in Scotland, and after establishing